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LIBRARIES AND INDUSTRY

R. GARDNER

IT HAS BECOME almost a truism—although it is not many years since it was a doctrine preached by only a few enthusiasts—that industry, to be efficient and successful, must be firmly based on knowledge of the scientific kind. Not all of the body of knowledge required would be classified as scientific in the strictest sense but the best and most useful of it has some of the essential features of science in that it is based on the accurate registration of experience, that where it consists partly of hypothesis—as much of it necessarily does—a clear distinction is made between what is hypothetical and what is definitely fact, and above all that it is available to everybody so that it can be used and tested and continuously enlarged and improved. Knowledge of this kind is stored in

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
GENERAL LIBRARY

books, from which it follows that industry needs books. Moreover the number of such books is very large and constantly growing and it follows that industry needs libraries.

It is probably safe to say that there is not one of the more progressive leaders in industry who would not support that statement if he had thought about the matter. Some of them probably have not happened to think about the question from that particular angle, but in time they will, especially if they receive a little judicious stimulation, and there is no doubt in the mind of the writer that there will be substantially complete agreement.

Many of the more progressive industrial firms, especially the larger ones, possess collections ranging from half-a-dozen books to good sized libraries, in some cases big enough to warrant the services of a trained librarian. This is likely to be the case to an increasing extent but it seems certain that the public libraries will always have to do a large part of the important work of supplying industry with library service. The cost of anything approaching a complete set of books on an average industry would be beyond the means of any but the very largest firms. Not only that, but much of the sort of information that is essential to the sound development of industry is of a general, fundamental kind and is often to be found only in books that would not at first sight appear to have any bearing at all on the operations of the particular industries concerned. To take a concrete instance, a point cropped up recently about the heat-transmitting properties of certain arrangements. The point was one that could easily have been of considerable importance in connection with any industry using anything in the nature of an oven or a furnace whether it was used for baking bread or annealing steel or firing pottery. The data required were found, after a search, in a rather highly specialised treatise which in the ordinary course of events the average baker or engineer or potter would not have occasion to consult once in a lifetime. Incidentally it may be remarked that there has been a great deal of important work done in the last twenty years on the calculation of heat transmission and if the results were fully applied to the design of industrial plant it is probable that the resulting savings would be enough to pay for a very large extension of the total library service of the country.

The argument for the provision of considerable libraries of books having a possible bearing on industrial processes is very strong even under conditions in which industry is in a comparatively static condition. It is vastly stronger under the conditions obtaining in New Zealand at the present time. It seems about as certain as anything can be in this uncertain

world that the next few years will see a very large expansion in the range and size of manufacturing industries in New Zealand. Just how far the increase is likely to go is a matter on which there can be wide differences of opinion, but there can be no uncertainty about the desirability of making sure that whatever industries do grow up are on the soundest possible lines as to the processes employed, the design of plant and the methods of running the industries. Indeed the preliminary question of the choice of industries suitable for the conditions of a particular district is one to be considered carefully in the light of all the relevant information available. This requires that the information be available. to the right people at the right times, and quite clearly that means that the best possible library facilities must be provided.

A limiting factor in the development of industries is the technical education of the people engaged in the industries. This applies at all levels from the people who plan and direct large industrial undertakings to the rank and file of the workpeople. The professionally trained personnel such as accountants, chemists and qualified engineers will probably look after themselves pretty well in the matter of books, and when they require the services of a librarian they are likely to take the initiative themselves. The people toward whom the librarians and those responsible for the financing of libraries have a special degree of responsibility are largely in what might be described as the middle ranks of industry. These are the people who will become foremen and heads of departments in large concerns or owners or managers of smaller concerns. The organized technical education of these people is possible only in a few trades in which the numbers engaged are sufficient to keep a class filled, as is the case with most of the building trade for example. In the smaller or newer occupations, of which there are very many, the leaders will usually be people of ability and initiative who have picked up the more specialised parts of their technical education wherever they can. These are the people who need most of all the provision of suitable books, and facilities for locating the right books and using them. The importance of the part that these people will play in the future development of this country is enormous. It is on them that the soundness of our economic position will largely depend. If anybody refuses to believe that there are people with enough energy and ambition to use books when they are provided, an evening or two spent in some of those of our public libraries that do make a serious attempt to cater for this class of readers will go a long way towards restoring his faith in human nature.

Industries are already making use of the industrial sections of libraries and the results are worth many thousands of pounds a year to the country already, and this in spite of the undoubted fact that the great majority of people in the industries have not yet learned to make use of libraries.

Industrialists as a whole have also not yet learned that librarianship is a highly specialised occupation. They are, however, learning fast. The writer has lately heard more than one executive in manufacturing industry express something not much short of amazement at the efficiency and courtesy with which a piece of information was produced out of the resources of the Public Library.

The present is a critical time in the development of the relationship between libraries and industry in this Dominion. The libraries should be built up now for the needs of the immediate future. If at least say half-a-dozen copies of every book that looked in the remotest degree likely to be consulted for industrial purposes could be provided in New Zealand, in libraries suitably housed and with an adequate staff of trained librarians, and if a serious effort could be made to bring to the notice of industrial people the advantage to be gained from making full use of the service, the money so invested would pay large dividends and this, in the writer's opinion, cannot be too strongly impressed on those responsible for allocation of public funds.

TRADE CATALOGUES

JEAN MATHER

A COLLECTION of trade catalogues is an essential tool in the commercial and technical section of the modern library, particularly at the present time in New Zealand, when secondary industries are being so greatly expanded. Unfortunately, under wartime conditions, catalogues are not so readily available as usual, because of paper shortage, printing difficulties, and the fact that much technical information is restricted to the country of origin by reason of censorship regulations. Foreign catalogues, of course, are not available at all. Nevertheless, it is still possible to obtain considerable material, particularly from manufacturers in the United States, and as most of these catalogues are given away free of charge, a good collection can soon be acquired at practically no cost. The Wellington Central Library began to build up a stock of trade catalogues some seven or eight years ago and has now a fairly comprehensive collection which is constantly being extended.

Formation. A start was made by writing to the Federation of British Industries, the British Trade Commissioner, the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, and similar organisations, explaining the library's desire to form a trade catalogue section and asking them either to bring the matter to the notice of their members, or to furnish a list of manufacturers who might be willing to present catalogues to the library. These people were all extremely helpful and in most cases provided not only special lists of manufacturers' names but also various types of trade directories, from which the library was able to select any firms whose catalogues seemed likely to be of interest. Many hundreds of names were selected and a circular letter sent to the manufacturers, setting out the library's purpose and asking if they would be willing to supply their literature as issued. A number of the firms written to did not respond, but a great many did so, and thus the nucleus of the collection was formed. Many of the catalogues sent were of a most elaborate kind, beautifully printed and bound in stiff covers and profusely illustrated. Since this beginning, additions have been made chiefly through the medium of advertisements in technical periodicals. As new magazines arrive, the advertisements are examined for offers of trade catalogues, and those required are written for. Some magazines, such as "Factory," "Electrical World,"

"American Builder," etc., contain periodical check lists of catalogues and pamphlets which may be obtainly simply by filling in a coupon and posting it to the magazine concerned.

Filing and Cataloguing. When the new catalogues arrive, they are first of all stamped with the Commercial room stamp and date of receipt, and given a subject heading from a specially compiled list, based mainly on the headings used in any general trade directory, but with such additions and alterations as seem necessary. If the catalogues are soft-covered and not unduly large, they are then filed in small drawers, arranged alphabetically according to subject. A card index is kept of the subject heading and any cross-references that may be needed. As many of the catalogues cover various aspects of their main subject, the headings are kept fairly general and this obviates the necessity of indexing every item covered by the catalogue, as is done in some British commercial libraries. In the Wellington Central Library, subject cards are not made for specific items unless they are particularly important or would not be readily found under the general heading. Although the groupings correspond to some extent with the Dewey classification, the Dewey numbers are not used for trade catalogues, as the subject heading alone has been found sufficient. Many of the British libraries have adopted the practice of indexing their trade catalogues in alphabetical order under names of firms, as they have found that most inquiries were made in that way, but in Wellington, owing, perhaps, to the fact that the individual firms are not so widely known in this country, most inquiries are for information about specific items, which can be found more readily by grouping the catalogues under subject. However, a separate card index is kept of the names of the manufacturers, arranged alphabetically, and on each card is shown the firm's address and the subject heading or headings under which its catalogues are filed. Thus any inquiry for a particular firm's material can be quite easily dealt with.

In the case of large, bound catalogues, a slightly different method of filing is necessary. Although they are still classified according to subject, instead of simply having the heading written on the cover, they are labelled with the initial letter of the subject and a "Cutter" number corresponding with the first three letters of the subject heading. e.g. Catalogues on Building Materials are labelled "B 868". This number is written on the top, right-hand corner of the subject index card and also on the manufacturer's name card when necessary. Bound catalogues are shelved either beside or underneath the filing drawers, in alphabetical order according to the initial letter and in numerical order within each letter.

Use. This collection of trade catalogues is in almost constant use and has proved invaluable of recent years, when so many New Zealand manufacturers are being called upon to produce articles formerly imported, or to find new methods and processes to replace the old. These people form the most important group of inquirers who have found the trade catalogues extremely helpful. The collection is also used very considerably by technical students who wish to study the latest developments in manufacturing processes and materials. In addition to the excellent illustrations and diagrams, many of the catalogues contain a great deal of technical information not available elsewhere.

Agents. Inquiries are often received from users of the trade catalogues as to whether overseas manufacturers have agents in New Zealand. For this reason, a card index file of manufacturers' agents has been built up in conjunction with the trade catalogue collection. The information is obtained from correspondence, advertisements in technical periodicals, and from the trade catalogues themselves. It has been found convenient to arrange this file in two sections: first, an alphabetical list of the overseas manufacturers, with their addresses, and underneath the names of the New Zealand—or, in some cases, Australian—firms representing them, and secondly, an alphabetical list of the New Zealand and Australian firms, with their addresses, and underneath the overseas manufacturer, or manufacturers, for whom they are agents.

Altogether, the trade catalogue collection has proved an extremely worth-while venture, and although its extension is somewhat limited at present, it still helps to fill a very decided need.

INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL LIBRARIES

JOHN HARRIS

NEW ZEALAND INDUSTRY is growing up and facing in every direction a variety of problems. These problems range from the purely technical to such commercial aspects as the availability of raw materials. Manufacture is no longer a rule of thumb affair nor an individual process handed down from father to son, sanctified by tradition and often kept as a closely guarded secret.

Whatever the industry, whether a brewery or a fertiliser works, a biscuit factory or a woollen mill, it uses a bewildering variety of materials and processes. Amidst such complexity, efficiency and even ultimate survival depend on the fullest use of all available information. Most large scale industrial concerns find it pays them to organise laboratories for the investigation of their own particular technical problems. Work done in such laboratories range from the long term research carried out by such huge concerns as the Bell Telephone Co. in America or Imperial Chemicals in Britain to the routine analyses of a local brewery, but they all have this in common: they are scientific, they make use of existing knowledge wherever possible. To the extent that they are able to do this they save their own time and resources for their own improvements or developments. Whatever the problems they need to know first whether anyone else in the world has tackled it and with what results. That knowledge may save months or even years of work and thousands or even millions of money. It may put a new industry on the map or help bring a war to a speedier conclusion.

The search for such information is no easy matter. The amount of literature published even in so narrow a field is enormous. It is estimated, for instance, that 60 to 80 hours is required to read the papers published in one month relating to the paint and pigment industry. Obviously it is impossible for a working scientist to keep abreast of such a torrent or to file and index it in such a way that he can at any moment lay his hands on what he wants. Even if he could do this with his own particular field of literature it would not meet his needs. The ramifications of modern technology are so wide and the various sciences are so interrelated that he is heavily handicapped unless he has easy

access to an enormous range of literature in the pure and applied sciences.

Such access is possible through specially organised scientific and technical libraries. They have been developed in their hundreds and thousands in Britain, the Soviet Union, Germany, the United States and other industrialised countries. They first came into prominence during the 1914-18 war and have since multiplied to such an extent that they have formed their own associations: in Britain A.S.L.I.B. (Association of Scientific Libraries and Information Bureaux), and in the U.S. the Special Libraries Association.

Such libraries (I confine my remarks here to technical and scientific libraries) are of two main kinds:

(1) Special departments of general libraries, usually of a public library.

(2) Libraries and information bureaux attached to specific industries or groups of industries, to individual units or private firms.

1. A good example is the Commercial and Technical Dept. of the Sheffield Public Library in England. This caters for the needs of all those industries centred in Sheffield, aiming to supply a general range of material essential to all, including business and trade directories, technical journals, reference works, indexes, abstracts, etc. From the viewpoint of specific industries its effectiveness is limited by its general outlook.

2. The Special Library proper is highly specialized. There are two main types:

(a) Libraries catering for a group of related industries. Examples are:

(i) *British Non Ferrous Metals Research Association Information Bureau.* This consists of a skilled staff, men and women who combine technical qualifications with training in librarianship, a relatively small library of reference works, indexes, etc., a well organised series of card catalogues, vertical files, and specially prepared indexes. Their job is to supply information and advice to member firms as well as to their own research staff. They make use as far as possible of other libraries such as the South Kensington Science Museum. As they must have the most recent information they draw as much on primary sources (verbal and written

reports from experts) as on printed material. They are active in preparing bibliographies, translating and abstracting from foreign journals, and compiling reports and answers to inquiries.

(ii) *Russia.* The Central Scientific and Technical Library in Moscow has under its administration 482 scientific libraries which serve all the light and textile industries. It supplies them with books and over 1000 different scientific journals. It trains specially qualified librarians for its branches. It performs all those functions mentioned under the British N.F.M.R.A. above, and in addition operates a very large library of its own. It is, of course, on a vastly bigger scale.

(b) Libraries attached to a single unit or private enterprise. A good example is:

Bendix Aviation Corporation, Magnetic Division Library. This caters for the engineers and technicians in a highly specialised section of one industry. Librarian and staff have to produce the latest information on a multitude of subjects covering metals, alloys, standards and specifications, plastics, engineering problems, etc. Their job is not merely to satisfy specific demands but to comb through current journals, etc., and see that important articles are brought to the notice of those individual engineers likely to be interested. Much use is made of other libraries by interloan, photostat, microfilm and long-distance telephone calls.

Two aspects of special libraries deserve to be stressed:

1. *Personnel.* Trained personnel are more important than stocks of printed material. An information bureau can be run with a telephone directory, a vertical file and a card index, provided the person in charge knows what local sources of information exist and how to use them. As time goes on he develops his own index to these sources, printed or personal.

2. Their active function in collecting information, forseeing demands and anticipating trends as compared with the relatively passive function of the general library which is satisfied with cataloguing and arranging material that comes into its hands.

Has New Zealand any Special Libraries catering for industrial needs?

If by "Library" we mean something more than a collection of books the answer is a decided no. Not even the larger public libraries are equipped to give such service. The near-

est approach is to be found in such an organisation as the N.Z. Woollen Manufacturers' Association Research Laboratory, which has a collection of books and journals looked after by a sevretary-typist. Housed in the University of Otago this library is able to utilise the latter's library facilities and so approach the functions of an information bureau.

That there is a demand for such specialised service is apparent from the inquiries that filter through to my own university library from various local authorities. The most striking feature of these contacts is the invariable surprise on learning that a library can help them and that fact that once initiated, the use of library facilities continues. I gather that the position in northern cities is even less advanced than in Dunedin. Several technicians and research chemists who have had assistance from us and then been moved to northern cities have written back for bibliographical assistance, complaining bitterly about their new home.

Meanwhile the N.Z. Library Association has made a beginning by tacking the problem of library stock and arranging for the acquisition of all essential reference works. But this is only a preliminary step. As suggested above the role of the special library is essentially an active one. It is library service that counts, and for this we need trained personnel. This will take time but a beginning can be made by co-ordinating the resources within each of the large centres and ensuring that at least such basic services as the Industrial Arts Index are made known to the industrial scientists and engineers.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS INDEX

MURA BLACK

WITH THE development of industry in New Zealand it is only to be expected that libraries will be called upon to satisfy an increasing number of inquiries on technical and business subjects. Clearly we cannot hope our book-stock to cover every aspect of the industrial world and we must therefore turn to the periodical for additional and more up-to-date information. Periodicals, however, are of little value for reference purposes unless we have some guide to their contents, so that for any library hoping to deal competently with the demands of businessmen the Industrial Arts Index will be an all-important tool.

Examining this tool in the light of the five cardinal points laid down by Mudge let us attempt to estimate its value as a guide to periodical literature in the field of industrial arts. First, the amount and kind of material indexed. The Industrial Arts Index is a special index covering engineering, trade and business periodicals, also pamphlets and books. Of the 238 periodicals listed, the majority are well-established and fairly important, including among their numbers many publications of the United States government and journals and proceedings of well-known societies. Only four are foreign. The general library attempting to cope with the average inquiry on the subject will not be greatly inconvenienced by this last factor, but it must seriously lessen the value of the index to university and special libraries. This raises the question as to whether it is not perhaps more a tool for the public library than for those covering more specialized fields. For any one index to attempt to cover comprehensively so vast a subject is manifestly impossible, and the more specialized indexes such as the Engineering Index will be of greater use to those in search of more particular information.

Next, the period covered. Mudge contends that the further back an index extends the greater will be its value, but this does not seem to be important where technology is concerned, and it does not greatly matter that the index covers only thirty years. A continued regular appearance of the latest monthly supplements, providing access to the most recent articles on the subject, is much more essential.

Thirdly, completeness of indexing. Every periodical included is fully indexed, but by subject only. Real subject cataloguing is used and it is here that difficulties arise for the

average reference assistant unversed in technical terms or for the technical expert unfamiliar with Wilson Company headings. For example, an article in "Electronics" Feb. 1944 'Electronic dehydration of foods' was located not, as might be expected, under 'Dehydration' or 'Electronics' (the two headings which immediately suggest themselves) but under 'Electric heating, Industrial'. It cannot be denied that the headings used are technically correct, but it does seem that a certain amount of training and a fair knowledge of the subject is necessary in order to make the fullest use of the index. A greater use of cross-reference than is made at present might smooth out some of these difficulties.

Fullest information is given under each heading—author, title (in full), clear reference to the periodical in which the article appears and inclusive paging, so that there can be no difficulty in locating any required article.

The arrangement is in the most convenient form, i.e. in one alphabetical list, and the entries are clearly set out and easily read. Frequent cumulations eliminate the necessity for searching through several small issues to satisfy any one inquiry.

Finally its prompt appearance each month is an excellent feature of this publication, though increasing difficulty seems to be experienced in keeping the entries for English periodicals up-to-date. Naturally in New Zealand there will always be a gap between the issue of any journal and the arrival of the index in which it appears—at present anything up to three months is not uncommon. In normal times, however, this gap will be considerably lessened, and with the increased use of air-mails may eventually be eliminated.

As a reference tool, therefore, the Industrial Arts Index seems to pass the tests laid down by Mudge with flying colours, and no library which is called upon to supply up-to-date information on industrial subjects can afford to be without this necessary guide to the wealth of material which can be derived from the periodical. When we consider also that of the 238 periodicals included, 120 are to be found, at least in part, amongst the libraries in this country, we realise just how much information can be made available to industry here and now provided we have this necessary clue to its existence.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES AT THE CROSSROADS

COMMENTS AND A REPLY

By MERVYN A. NIXON

IN ITS OWN sphere, Dorothy White's book-list "Junior Books" has been a fairy godmother to those of us who were struggling unaided and unguided with the task of choosing books for children. When therefore she turns the searchlight on our junior library service as she does in the April number, it behoves everyone concerned to take serious notice. She reveals a growing medley of interdependent and overlapping services marked here and there with unexpected vacuums. Unfortunately her picture viewed from Dunedin is slightly out of focus in that she speaks mainly for Otago. Taken from a wider angle, it may be summed up thus. A library service varying from excellent to very poor is provided for all children by the school library and/or the public library. The Country Library Service Schools Section provides for schools outside the urban areas a supply of excellent books, but as yet in insufficient quantities. Museum services are provided for a few fortunate localities. Teaching aids in the form of movie films and film strips are available to all schools, but, as the use of these depends on the possession of the appropriate projector, only certain fortunate children are served. The centralised picture file is confined apparently to Otago.

There is a good deal wrong with such a situation. In the first case, no one really believing in democracy and equal opportunity for all can accept calmly the wide differentiation that exists. If museum, library or film service can be supplied for one school or community why can they not be supplied for all? Taxation recognises no county boundaries. Then there is the question of overlapping. Mrs. White points out that the teacher requiring material appeals for books to the library, film strips to the Board, movie films to the Department and specimens to the museum. Worse still, from a library point of view, is the muddled method of book purchasing involved. Schools compete in an already barren market for books and are perforce compelled to accept what the local bookseller offers. Even the keenest of school librarians cannot secure good material under those conditions. What the average teacher scrapes up is sometimes quite un-

suitable. Take a look at the difference in quality between a line of C.L.S. school library books and a similar quantity of books from an average school library, and you will see what I mean.

The school library is often the most neglected branch of the school's activities. For this the teachers are not wholly to blame. Probably no other profession is required to know so much about so many things. Bus driving, rapid recognition of infectious diseases, interpretation of difficult education laws and regulations, a knowledge of the latest findings of child psychology, the control of school cafeterias, and the teaching of every school subject from Primer I. to Form VI. are some aspects of a teacher's duties. Consequently the busy teacher often feels that he can at least turn one of his minor responsibilities over to the near-sighted Std. VI. girl who is no good for anything else but librarian. Book selection, when there are funds to spare, is haphazard. The country teacher sees a decent book store only when he visits a city or large town in the holidays.

Teachers as a class are not really conversant with modern children's literature. After all they represent a cross-section of the community and we cannot expect the proportion of bibliophiles to be higher among them than it is in any similar professional group. A disturbing factor, however, is that many teachers, through their long experience with children and inaccurate nostalgic memories of their own childhood, are inclined to regard themselves as authorities and to judge unwisely. Twice within recent months the Director of the C.L.S. has had to answer unfair criticism through the columns of " National Education." We have a long way to go yet before we establish good children's libraries in our schools.

What are the possible solutions? I like the idea of " cell division " of the present C.L.S. school service so long as it refers to administration and not to book supply. Each Education Board district could have a Supervisor of Teaching Aids whose duties would be:

1. To supply through C.L.S. all the schools in his area with all the books required, apart from text and purely reference books.

2. To supply on loan all teaching aids required; film strips; museum services; pictures; eventually movie films as these become more common.

3. To instruct and inspire teachers in their use.

In addition, the larger schools at least, should have a part-

time teacher librarian, preferably trained as a third-year specialist.

The immediate objections would be—

1. *Cost of Scheme.*

The present haphazard system of individual purchasing is a drain on the country, the teachers and the booksellers. The supply is inadequate, books are unnecessarily reduplicated and many, ordered by booksellers not conversant with the needs of modern education, are definitely unsuitable. Who would lose under the proposed scheme?

2. *" Bureaucracy."*

A certain type of individual will maintain that to appreciate a service you must pay for it yourself. He will raise the old gloomy predictions the abuse of privileges; destruction of books; " too much being done for the children these days." But surely if an Education Board can safely supply its schools with furniture, science apparatus and handwork material it would not be tempting Providence to add books to the list.

3. *The Training College.*

The extra strain on this institution is admitted. Under present conditions it might not be possible to give every trainee a modicum of library training and to produce specialist children's libraries. Two courses are open—firstly to lengthen the present period of training which is inevitable in any case; secondly, to call upon the public libraries for extra assistance.

The Function of the Junior Library.

I do not agree that children's library service can ever be " entirely decentralised and carried out through the schools." The school library cannot be expected to supply as good a service as the present junior library. For one thing, schools are closed for ten weeks of the year. Few would have the accommodation or staffing. The specific function of the school library is to provide teaching aids and only such recreational reading as is incidental to the main work of the school. To draw a comparison, many schools now use movie films but no school would claim to usurp the functions of the cinema.

Readers of NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES may wonder what this school teacher's Jermiad has to do with them. There is plenty of work ahead for the librarian. The district Supervisors of Teaching Aids and their staffs would have to be library trained. The Training Colleges would require good libraries and lecturers in librarianship. The junior library, freed from the complex demands it is now trying to fulfil

would be able to branch out into "those other activities never possible before because children's librarians have had too much hewing of wood and drawing of water to do to worry about parlour graces."

Perhaps more important still is the prospect of creating careers for children's librarians. No one interested in library progress can be really happy about the present position and prospects of many workers in the library field. There is little scope for their future advancement; even those who rise to key positions are offered salaries that no other group with similar qualifications would accept. If we want to clear the blocked channels of promotion, if we want to attract the men and women that our libraries deserve, we must offer more high-salaried positions to those already at work. A service to the schools would be an excellent opportunity to achieve these aims.

One thing is certain. If librarians do not lobby for some such reform, someone else will; and a large and promising field of endeavour, together with the rewards of such work, will be closed to them for good.

FROM THE BULLETIN OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES.

From Feb. 1944, the British Council has taken over the publication of "British Book News" from the National Book Council. The Association of Children's Librarians has agreed to continue to compile monthly lists of suggestions and to submit them to the British Book Council by the first day of the month .... "British Book News." is circulated to booksellers throughout the Empire and foreign countries. A cumulative edition is published annually by Longmans Green at 6/-, and so far volumes have been issued for 1941, 1942 and 1943.

NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

AUCKLAND BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Auckland Branch was held in the print room of the Art Gallery on Saturday, May 6th, 1944.

Miss D. Hazard, in her presidential address, outlined the aims and achievements of the New Zealand Library Association, and a lengthy discussion followed during which it was unanimously agreed that the Auckland Branch should take a greater interest in branch activities.

It was resolved that a Junior Forum be formed to encourage discussion among the many new junior members of the Association. Further motions were carried suggesting that the incoming committee should invite branch members, particularly the younger ones, to give their views on what they expect from the Association; and that all possible help and encouragement be given members who are taking the N.Z.L.A. general training examination.

The following officers were elected for the year 1944:—Chairman, Miss D. Hazard; Hon. Secretary, Miss M. M. Peat; Hon. Auditor, Miss H. Doherty; Committee, Miss E. J. Anderson, Mr. A. D. Cunningham, Miss D. E. Lyon, Miss A. Minchin, Miss N. Nutting.

HONORARIA.

In the April number of N.Z. Libraries, p. 56, mention was made that an honorarium of £15 had been granted by Council to Miss E. J. Carnell for those sections of the N.Z.L.A. General Training Course which she had completed after her resignation from the position of liason officer to the Association. At the meeting of Training Committee in August, at which the whole question of honoraria was discussed, Miss Carnell vigorously opposed the proposal that she should accept payment, nominal or otherwise. Her negative vote on this proposal was recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The secretary of N.Z.L.A. reports that Miss Carnell has returned the cheque which was sent to her, and suggests that as a measure of publicity was given to its granting, publicity should also be given to its return.

OTAGO BRANCH MEETING.

Eager to hear the doings of Wellington, the Otago Branch met during April to hear about the annual meeting of the N.Z.L.A. Mrs. Dorothy White and Mr. John Harris gave interesting outlines of the main topics which were discussed.

PERSONAL.

Miss Penelope Coombs has resigned from the staff of the Dunedin Public Library owing to ill health.

Miss Edith Bissett, who was married to Dr. Ian Hutchinson on January 12, is remaining on the staff of the Otago University Library.

Four appointments have recently been made to the Canterbury University College Library. Sergeant K. A. R. Horn, B.A., Librarian, Linton Military Camp, is to be Assistant Librarian; Miss Pamela A. M. Marshall, M.A., A.L.A., who was on the Staff until 1942, since when she has been at A.U.C. Library, is returning to the newly-created post of Cataloguer; the two general assistant vacancies have been filled by Miss Faye Pearless and Miss Barbara Hale, both of whom had been student assistants previously.

CORRESPONDENCE

6 May, 1944.

The Editor,
N.Z. Libraries.

Sir,—

At the recent Annual Meeting of the Association I pointed out that the Committee on Librarians' Salaries, Conditions, and Qualifications had, during the past year, done nothing.

At the first meeting of the new Council it was decided to discontinue the Committee on Librarians' Solaries, Conditions, and Qualifications.

In the April number of *New Zealand Libraries* there appears an advertisement for the position of First Assistant Librarian at the Whangarei Public Library. The commencing salary is £156 per annum, plus 5% plus 2/6 per week, which works out at £3/5/6 a week. The population of Whangarei is getting on towards 8,000.

In Wellington, at the present moment, girls are being offered from £5 to £7 a week as tram conductors.

Verbum sat sapienti.

WM. L. ROBERTSON.
R.N.Z.A.F., Auckland,
18 May, 1944.

The Editor,
New Zealand Libraries.

RE BOOKS FOR STUDENTS IN CAMP.

Sir,—

In your March number you mention that the Patriotic Board does not "favourably consider a request of the Auckland University College for a grant for text books to enable men in camp to continue their studies."

May I as a mobilised student point out that A.E.W.S., at a nominal fee, provides text books as obtainable. If a University College could supply text books they would be superfluous, although the service of A.U.C. in mailing extra reading is invaluable. Victoria, I have noticed, does not provide for extra-mural students in this manner.

D. McCARTHY.

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

MURA BLACK holds the position of cataloguer at Dunedin Public Library. She is a graduate of Otago University, and has been a member of the Otago Branch executive for some years.

R. GARDNER is a consulting industrial chemist in Dunedin. Originally trained as a pharmaceutical chemist, he is a past president of the Pharmaceutical Section of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. For ten years Dr. Gardner was a member of the staff of the King Edward Technical College, and is now a member of the board of governors of that institution. He makes extensive use of Dunedin's library resources and has been a guest speaker at the Otago Branch of the N.Z.L.A.

JOHN HARRIS is librarian of Otago University. As convener of N.Z.L.A. Serials Committee, he was responsible for the compilation of "The Checklist of Serials in N.Z. Libraries." This year he inaugurated a series of lectures on bibliography and librarianship at Otago University which are attended by members of the University teaching staff, research and honours students, and librarians.

JEAN H. MATHER is in charge of the commercial section of the reference department of Wellington Public Library. Part of her degree thesis on "Fairlyland and the Unconscious" was published in the "Australian Journal of Psychology and Philosophy." She has written several children's plays which have been produced in Wellington, and one adult play which was highly commended in last year's Drama Festvial competition.

MERVYN A. NIXON is a teacher at Gisborne Intermediate School, where he has been in charge of the library since its inception. The prize-winner in the N.Z.L.A. essay competition, "What's Wrong with N.Z. Libraries?", he is keenly interested in Association affairs, particularly in the whole urgent problem of school library development.

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